



Industry Led. Community Focused.

SEPTEMBER 2024 E-NEWSLETTER

Workforce Development

Success Story: Vicente E. Vasquez

Vicente E. Vazquez, 34, has had many kinds of jobs including restaurant staff, patient access representative, warehouse worker, and in tech. Vicente found his passion for construction after he took a 15-week woodworking program at Greater West Town. He heard about HIRE360 and joined the [Green Energy and Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Program](#) where he gained certifications in OSHA, CPR, and Trades Futures. After the program he applied to the [Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council](#) and started in June of this year as a millwright! “My journey with HIRE360 was smooth and well-supported. They were there every step of the way, offering guidance and resources that made the application process straightforward and less daunting. My advice would be to fully engage with the resources HIRE360 offers. Their support can help you build a strong foundation and prepare you for success in any apprenticeship.”



Success Story: Jocelyn Gomez

Jocelyn Gomez, 35, from Chicago’s West Side, started off doing stocking at a construction distributor and ended up getting promoted to the head of logistics. Through her position she met many companies including [Walsh Group](#) who

told her that she should think of a career in construction. After hearing about HIRE360 she jumped at the opportunity to get some certifications and joined the ILW program where she got certifications in OSHA, CPR, Flagging and more. After she graduated from the program she ended up getting sponsored by [Walsh](#) into the [Laborers Union](#). “I’ll tell others don’t stop, keep going no matter what obstacles they may encounter. By me being a woman, men look at me like “Wow! You’re not only in one of the hardest companies to get into, but you’re also a laborer!” Just don’t quit and follow your dreams. Your ambitions will get you there! It might be a tough bumpy ride but, being in construction is worth it in the long run.”



Trades Fair and Panel Discussion

HIRE360 hosted a Trades Fair and Panel Discussion event for candidates to learn more about the building trades and how to apply. Candidates had the opportunity to network and connect with their case managers. Thank you to the building trades that took part in our panel discussion [IBEW Local 134](#) , [Operating Engineers Local 150](#) , [Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council](#), [Elevators Contractors](#), [Laborers Local 1](#), [Teamsters](#), and [Pipefitters](#).



Breaking Barriers in Construction

Check out this insightful Op-Ed published in the [Illinois Business Journal](#)

[Inc.](#) by HIRE360 Partners Board Member and [IL AFL CIO](#) Secretary-Treasurer Pat Devaney, along with Hannah Hill, a Commercial Painter and Treasurer of Local Union 90. They discuss the challenges women face in the construction industry and explore actionable solutions to diversify the workforce, urging everyone to capitalize on the opportunity to drive meaningful change.

Read more here: [OP-ED: This Labor Day, vow to capitalize on opportunity to diversify the workforce – Illinois Business Journal \(ibjonline.com\)](#)

Mentorship

Our mentorship program is kicking off a new year! We're beyond thrilled to introduce our very first group of mentors, who were formerly mentees themselves and are ready to guide our first- and second-year apprentices and shape the future of our program. All five are in their 3rd or 4th year of apprenticeship or are already journeypersons, and have been integral to HIRE360 for years.

Our dedicated mentors and the HIRE360 team recently gathered for a lively breakfast, buzzing with discussions on mentorship topics and fresh ideas for the year ahead. We couldn't be more excited to welcome this dynamic team and look forward to an inspiring year ahead!

Congratulations to our new mentors Eddie Martin, Citlaly Moreno Chagoya, David Castrejon, Edgar Vallejo and Sophia Irizarry.

Interested in joining our Mentorship Program? Contact your case manager or email info@HIRE360Chicago.com. We can't wait to have you with us!



New Paid Training Cohort Begins September 30

HIRE360 and [Constellation](#) will be kicking off a new cohort of Empowering Futures. This is a 9-week program with two career pathways: position with Constellation as a Mechanical Maintenance Tech or apply to a building trades apprenticeship program. Contact training@HIRE360Chicago.com for additional information and requirements about our Empowering Future program.

IEUC Tour

Thank you to the IUEC local [2IUEC local 2](#) for giving our [Illinois Works](#) candidates a tour of your apprenticeship center. The candidates were able to see how elevators work and are put together. Candidates toured their different classrooms and learned about topics that are taught during the apprenticeship as well as the application process.



CTA Event

Thank you to the [Chicago Transit Authority](#) for inviting us to witness the award of the construction contract for the Red Line Extension project and the first Chicago pledge-signing ceremony for the Equity in Infrastructure

Project. Always great to connect with our board member, Jonathan Jones, from the [Mid-America Regional Carpenters Council](#). As the CTA's placement partner, we're excited to start connecting our candidates to these CTA job opportunities!



Labor Delegates

HIRE360 was excited to host the AFL-CIO labor delegates meeting with over 400 attendees, featuring great remarks from [AFL-CIO](#) President Liz Schuler and Vice President Fred Redmond as well as [IL AFL CIO](#) President Tim Drea, and [Chicago Federation of Labor](#) Bob Reiter!





Apprenticeship Openings!

HIRE360 is excited to announce our trade partners are accepting applications for their apprenticeship programs:

Bricklayers:

- Bricklayers create architectural works of art with stone and tile. As with all trades, you should be prepared to work hard, outside and at heights on a regular basis to succeed in this trade. Applicants will be accepted throughout the year. Applications will be available Monday through Friday between 8:30 am to 3:00 pm at the DCTC office or online at www.bac2school.org. Secure your spot by applying today.

Electricians IBEW 134:

- Electricians assemble, install, maintain, and test electrical equipment and wiring systems in residential, commercial, and industrial settings. The apprentice program is five years in duration, and is registered with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training. The program consists of on-the-job training provided by union electrical contractors, and related classroom instruction. Applications are accepted every Wednesday between 9 am-11 am. For more information contact your case manager.

Heat and Frost Insulators Local 17:

- The vital work of the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers has saved energy, saved money, and saved lives. Heat and Frost Insulators Local 17 offers an excellent five-year apprenticeship program that is now open for online applications.

[International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150](#)

- The Heavy Equipment Operators apprenticeship program application is opening soon! Stay tuned for more information. Applications are still open for trades such as Heavy Equipment Repair Technician, Geothermal Well Driller Operator, and Construction & Building Inspector. If you are interested, please contact your case manager.

[Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council:](#)

- As a Union Carpenter, your essential responsibilities include constructing, repairing, and installing various structures and fixtures made of wood and other materials. You'll work with precise measurements, cut materials, shape components, and assemble them according to specified plans and designs. Applications open September 9.

For those individuals interested in applying and needing a letter of recommendation, please contact your HIRE360 Case Manager today or email us at info@HIRE360Chicago.com.

Business Development

Cook County Small Business Source

HIRE360 recently became part of [The Cook County Small Business Source](#), a group of leading Business Support Organizations (BSOs) that provide direct support to the Cook County small business community. By partnering with trusted organizations, The Source connects small business owners with the expertise they need to succeed. Since this program began in 2020, The Source has distributed \$67M in grants and served more than 20K small businesses.

Recently, an onboarding program took place for HIRE360 and numerous other BSOs. The program was facilitated by Domini Gamble, Senior Program Manager for The Source. The organizations learned how they will collaborate to support, grow and elevate small businesses by providing no-cost business advising, resources and access to events.

Business Support Organizations (BSO)

Among the other Business Support Organizations are:

- Women's Business Development Center (WBDC)
- Chicago Minority Supplier Development Council (CMSDC)
- Allies for Community Business
- Chicago Urban League
- Illinois Restaurant Association
- HACIA
- Elevate
- Asian American Chamber of Illinois and many more

The Source also works with Referral Partners, which are Cook County nonprofit business-facing organizations with a substantial footprint in suburban Cook County that connect businesses to no-cost advising, a calendar of events and other resources.

Save the Date!



Save the Date!

Renewable Energy Contractor Clinic

Register Here!



forms.office.com/r/1ENsAPw0rh

Tuesday, October 21, 2024 | 11am – 6pm

HIRE360 Chicago

2540 South State Street, Chicago, IL 60616

Lunch will be provided

This free event will include presentations on how to register as an Equity Eligible Contractor (EEC), how to participate in the Illinois Shines and Illinois Solar for All Programs, how to access free business advising and small business resources from the Cook County Small Business Source, and will include an overview of the Grant Opportunities by the Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) as well as information on working capital loans, certification support and other no cost resources for contractors that HIRE360 provides. The event will include a networking segment from 5pm – 6pm.

Hosted by
HIRE360 Chicago



Partners and Sponsors



Youth Engagement

Fall Into the School Year with Us!

August 26 marked the beginning of the school year for [Chicago Public School](#) students! We are planning out all youth engagement events for the Fall through spring of 2025 and would love to include everyone! If your school is interested in hearing about our pre-apprenticeship opportunities or simply to learn more about careers in Construction, please send an email to Youth@HIRE360Chicago.com. We are also arranging tours of our new facilities and securing spots at career fairs throughout Chicago. We look forward to hearing from you soon!



Our Mission Is to Expand Employment Opportunities

IN THE NEWS

[HIRE360 Connects Minority Candidates to Job of their Dreams](#)
| CBS Chicago, August 13, 2024



[Watch the full coverage here.](#)



[Jobs Partnership Chicago](#) is a non-profit organization dedicated to bridging the gap between underemployed or unemployed individuals and meaningful career opportunities. Since its inception, Jobs Partnership Chicago has made significant strides in transforming lives by providing a range of services, including job readiness training, career counseling, and access to essential resources. By partnering with local



Chicago Sports Construction is a premier provider of artificial turf installation services. The company has built a strong reputation for delivering high-quality, durable, and aesthetically pleasing synthetic grass solutions for a variety of applications, including:

- Stadium sports fields (football, baseball, soccer, and lacrosse)
- City parks & recreation
- Indoor and outdoor sports

businesses, educational institutions, and community organizations, Jobs Partnership Chicago has created a robust network that supports its mission of empowering individuals to achieve self-sufficiency and career growth. They have proudly partnered with HIRE360 to have their students learn construction trades.

- complexes
- Commercial landscapes
- Military installation sport fields
- High schools, universities
- Residential communities

The company is owned and operated by Founder & CEO, Ulysses Ruff and Co-Founder, Edward Turf. Their business provides superior turf installation services that exceed their clients' expectations for a wide range of projects. Those core services include:

- Synthetic and artificial turf manufacturing
- Synthetic sports turf installation
- Drainage systems for artificial turf fields
- Synthetic turf repair and removal
- Running Track Installation
- Tennis Court Installation
- Playground Installation

To learn more about Chicago Sports Construction, call them at (773) 366-6400.

HIRE360

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